

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 69

Introduced by Senator Pavley

(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Cannella, Correa, *DeSaulnier*, Dutton, Evans, Fuller, Liu, Price, Strickland, and Wolk)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Hall, Huffman, Ma, Miller, Monning, Portantino, *Wieckowski*, Williams, and Yamada)

February 23, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 69—Relative to California Autism Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 69, as amended, Pavley. California Autism Awareness Month.

This measure would designate April 2012 as California Autism Awareness Month, would affirm the Legislature's commitment to the important issues related to autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), and would emphasize that each and every individual with an ASD is a valued and important member of our society.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) now impact
2 one out of every 110 children, and one in every 70 boys, in the
3 United States and are the fastest growing serious developmental
4 disability, making these disorders more common than pediatric
5 cancer, diabetes, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
6 combined; and

7 WHEREAS, The prevalence of autism is increasing by 10 to
8 17 percent annually and ASDs cost the nation over \$35 billion per

1 year, and this cost is estimated to exceed \$200 billion in 10 years;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Most school districts in California have seen a
4 doubling of ~~students~~ *pupils* with ASDs in the past five years. The
5 number of Californians with ASDs who are served by the State
6 Department of Developmental Services now exceeds 50,000, which
7 is a number that has increased fivefold since 1998, and is more
8 than 12 times what it was in 1987; and

9 WHEREAS, Many Californians are not adequately informed
10 about ASDs and the value and importance of early identification,
11 assessment, and treatment of these disorders; and

12 WHEREAS, Current scientific research demonstrates that the
13 early identification of and intervention with children with ASDs
14 can result in significant positive outcomes in many children with
15 ASDs; and

16 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports the goal of increasing
17 research to learn the root causes of autism and identify the best
18 methods of early intervention and treatment, expanding programs
19 for individuals with autism across their lifespan, and promoting
20 understanding of the special needs of people with autism; and

21 WHEREAS, Parents and family members have made invaluable
22 contributions through their commitment, care, and advocacy, to
23 important advances in research, education, and treatment for
24 individuals with ASDs; and

25 WHEREAS, Public information and awareness efforts are of
26 paramount importance in accelerating early identification efforts
27 and the proliferation of early intervention programs and services;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The Senate Select Committee on Autism and
30 Related Disorders has appointed regional autism-~~taskforces~~ *task*
31 *forces* that are comprised of consumers and their family members,
32 advocates, providers, researchers, and other experts in the area of
33 ASDs, and other stakeholders, to provide assistance to, and to
34 support the work of, the select committee. Senator Steinberg, as
35 Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related
36 Disorders, has established the Statewide Coordinating Council of
37 Autism Taskforces that consists of the leadership of the regional
38 autism-~~taskforces~~ *task forces* and has provided input and integrated
39 recommendations for consideration by the Senate Select Committee
40 on Autism and Related Disorders; and

1 WHEREAS, California has been the established leader in
2 providing services and support for the early identification,
3 assessment, intervention, education, and treatment of individuals
4 with ASDs. This leadership began with the passage of landmark
5 state legislation, such as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities
6 Services Act in 1969 and Assembly Bill 3854 (Chapter 1527 of
7 the Statutes of 1974), relating to autism and public education; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission
9 on Autism submitted its report, “An Opportunity to Achieve Real
10 Change for Californians with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” which
11 provided specific findings and recommendations; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2009, the Senate Committee on Rules, pursuant
13 to Senate Rule 12.5, established the Senate Select Committee on
14 Autism and Related Disorders and this committee has appointed
15 regional autism ~~taskforces~~ *task forces*; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates April 2012 as
18 California Autism Awareness Month, affirms the Legislature’s
19 commitment to the important issues related to ASDs, and
20 emphasizes that each and every individual with an ASD is a valued
21 and important member of our society; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
23 parents and relatives of individuals with ASDs for their sacrifice
24 and dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals
25 with ASDs; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
27 work of all of the nonprofit organizations that contribute to the
28 well-being of individuals with autism and their families; and be it
29 further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature stresses the need to identify
31 children with ASDs and to begin early intervention services
32 immediately after a child has been diagnosed with autism; and be
33 it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature also stresses the need to provide
35 these intervention services, as well as supports, for individuals
36 with ASDs and their families in an integrated, seamless,
37 comprehensive, and competent manner that is delivered across the
38 child’s lifespan; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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